

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Earl Blumenauer issued the following statement in response to the passage of H.R. 2, a bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

“Today’s vote to take away patients’ rights and repeal the healthcare reform law was a disappointing political stunt. We enacted these reforms because our healthcare system was in a dangerous downward spiral. Skyrocketing healthcare costs were hurting businesses, taking a big bite out of family paychecks, and causing half of all bankruptcies.

“Under the Republican plan, children with pre-existing conditions would again be denied coverage and families would again suffer devastating annual and lifetime caps. Middle class Americans would lose the tax breaks that help millions of families and small businesses pay for coverage, and seniors would see their prescription drug costs rise again when the donut hole is reinstated. Moreover, the Republican plan would increase deficits by \$230 billion over the next ten years and more than \$1.2 trillion in the following decade.

“The healthcare reform law is not perfect, but it is absolutely a step in the right direction that is already saving lives and bringing much-needed care to people across our country. Now is the time to commit ourselves to the hard work of implementing and accelerating these important reforms, using the strides we have made here in Oregon as an example. As we look forward, I hope for a rational, thoughtful debate about how to improve the quality and affordability of health care for all Americans.”